

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing information technology needs in a business, comprising:

gathering information associated with the operation of the business ~~in categories~~ and the activities pertaining to the information technology initiative desired to be implemented;

applying strategic value ratings to each ~~criteria in the categories~~ the activities;

categorizing ~~initiatives~~ the activities so that like ~~initiatives~~ activities are assessed against each other;

determining which ~~initiatives~~ activities within a particular category are to be funded in accordance with the applied strategic value ratings.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

applying an approval filter to each ~~criteria of the categories~~ activity.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
applying the strategic value rating in response to an affirmative approval filter.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

calculating a strategic value assessment for each ~~initiative~~ activity from the strategic value ratings.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

establishing funding for an initiative activity with the highest strategic value assessment.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

comparing the strategic value assessment of a first initiative activity to strategic value assessment of a second initiative activity;

prioritizing the first initiative activity with respect to the second initiative activity in response to the strategic value assessment comparison.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
applying a weight factor to each category pertaining to the initiative.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the categories include strategic positioning, financial impact, intellectual assets, and business drivers associated with the business.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~technical impact and risk impact overlays affect the~~ and risk impacts are considered for application of the strategic value ratings.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~initiatives~~ activities are categorized according to whether an initiative activity transforms the business, grows the business, provides a technological advantage, and involves a technology refresh.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including code for assessing information technology needs in a business, the code operable to:

receive information associated with the operation of the business ~~in categories~~ and activities pertaining to the information technology initiative desired to be implemented;

apply strategic value ratings to each ~~criteria in the categories~~ activity;

categorize ~~initiatives~~ activities so that like ~~initiatives~~ activities are assessed against each other;

determine which ~~initiatives~~ activities within a particular category are to be funded in accordance with the applied strategic value ratings.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein the code is further operable to:

apply an approval filter to each ~~criteria of the categories~~ activity.

13. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11, wherein the code is further operable to:

apply a weight factor to each category pertaining to the initiative.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 11, wherein the code is further operable to:

calculate a strategic value assessment for each initiative activity from the strategic value ratings.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the code is further operable to:

compare the strategic value assessment of a first initiative activity to strategic value assessment of a second initiative activity;

prioritize the first initiative activity with respect to the second initiative activity in response to the strategic value assessment comparison.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for assessing information technology needs in a business, comprising:

means for receiving information associated with the operation of the business ~~in categories~~ and activities pertaining to the information technology initiative desired to be implemented;

means for applying strategic value ratings to each ~~criteria in the categories~~ activity;

means for categorizing ~~initiatives~~ activities so that like ~~initiatives~~ activities are assessed against each other;

means for determining which ~~initiatives~~ activities within a particular category are to be funded in accordance with the applied strategic value ratings.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 16, further comprising:

means for applying an approval filter to each ~~criteria of the categories~~ activity.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 16, further comprising:

means for applying a weight factor to each category pertaining to the initiative.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 16, further comprising:

means for calculating a strategic value assessment for each ~~initiative~~ activity from the strategic value ratings.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 19, further comprising:

means for comparing the strategic value assessment of a first ~~initiative~~ activity to strategic value assessment of a second ~~initiative~~ activity;

means for prioritizing the first ~~initiative~~ activity with respect to the second ~~initiative~~ activity in response to the strategic value assessment comparison.